

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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SUBJECT: ROC BACKGROUND NOTES

REF: STATE 051476

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL:

A. BECAUSE OF THE THEN UNSETTLED SITUATION ON THE MAINLAND, ONLY 2961 NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN WERE ELECTED IN THE FIRST (AND ONLY CHINA-WIDE) ELECTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1947. BASED ON INFORMATION COMPILED BY THE EMBASSY IN DECEMBER 1975, 1288 OF THOSE ELECTED IN 1947 ARE STILL ALIVE. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND: 15 NEW SEATS (9 FOR TAIWAN PROVINCE AND 6 FOR TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY) WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1969, AND AN ADDITIONAL 53 NEW SEATS WERE CREATED IN 1972 FOR TAIWAN PROVINCE, TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY, VARIOUS OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS. THOSE WHOSE SEATS WERE CREATED IN 1972 HOLD SIX-YEAR TERMS; ALL THE OTHERS HOLD THEIR SEATS "INDEFINITELY" (I.E., UNTIL THE MAINLAND IS RECOVERED.

B. THERE ARE NOW 72 MEMBERS OF THE CONTROL YUAN ABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THAT BODY. HOWEVER, THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONTROL YUAN AS PRESENTLY DEFINED IS 132, WHICH INCLUDES THE 72 MEMBERS ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTROL YUAN AND AN ADDITIONAL 60 ORIGINAL MEMBERS WHOSE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT KNOWN. THIS 60 DOES NOT INCLUDE THOSE ORIGINAL MEMBERS WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR WERE SURROUNDED BY COMMUNIST FORCES AT THE TIME THE GROC RETREATED

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TO TAIWAN. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND: THE 72 WHO ARE PRESENTLY

ABLE TO ATTEND SESSIONS INCLUDE 56 OF THE 180 ORIGINAL MEMBERS ELECTED IN 1948, 2 ELECTED IN 1969 TO REPRESENT TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY, 5 SELECTED IN 1972 TO REPRESENT OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITIES (OF WHOM ONLY 4 REMAIN ALIVE), AND 10 (7 FROM TAIWAN PROVINCE AND 3 FROM TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY) ELECTED IN 1973. THOSE WHO TOOK OFFICE IN 1972 AND 1973 HOLD SIX-YEAR TERMS; THE OTHERS HOLD THEIR SEATS "INDEFINITELY" (SEE ABOVE).

C. OF THE PRESENT 433 MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN, 419 HAVE SO FAR REGISTERED FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE FEBRUARY 1976 LEGISLATIVE YUAN SESSION. OF THESE, SOME 200 ATTEND SESSIONS ON A FAIRLY REGULAR BASIS. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND: THE PRESENT 433 MEMBERS COMPRISE 370 OF THE ORIGINAL 760 LEGISLATORS ELECTED IN 1948, 11 ELECTED IN 1969 TO "INDEFINITE" TERMS, AND 52 WHOSE SEATS WERE CREATED UNDER A 1972 REGULATION AND WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE IS THREE YEARS.

2. FYI: THE EMBASSY IS PREPARING A MUCH MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP, AGE, AND FUTURE OF THE THREE CENTRAL PARLIAMENTARY BODIES WHICH WE HOPE TO DISPATCH TO THE DEPARTMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
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